

# HAMPTON VA

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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## Hampton offices to open on 2-hour delay Wednesday; Weather Service issues warning

**Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015** – Hampton city offices and buildings will open on a 2-hour delay Wednesday, with a liberal leave policy for employees. Although main roads were largely clear by Tuesday afternoon, cold weather is expected to cause ice to form and make travel hazardous.

Warmer weather and sunshine gave a boost to the efforts of Hampton Public Works crews by midday Tuesday. Hampton police pronounced the main roads passable around 4 p.m. However, getting onto main roads can prove troublesome, particularly for cars with low clearance. Secondary roads and neighborhood streets remain very slippery. However, later tonight cold temperatures are expected to refreeze melted snow even on the main roads, making travel hazardous. Schools will remain closed Wednesday.

The National Weather Service has issued the following alert:

Snow and ice covered roads will lead to hazardous driving conditions tonight, especially on secondary and untreated roads. These conditions are expected to worsen after sunset as sunshine this afternoon has allowed some melting to occur. Any water on roadways will rapidly freeze after sunset and lead to areas of black ice.

Motorists will need to be alert to the possibility of slick spots. Motorists should exercise caution while driving, especially on bridges and overpasses. Allow for extra time to reach your destination and avoid sudden stops or accelerations.

### Police

Hampton Police Division announced that in the 24 hours beginning 3 p.m. Monday, police assisted with 36 crashes without injuries, 16 with injuries, and 4 hit-and-runs. By far the biggest category of need Tuesday was calls for public assistance, hitting 214.

### Trash and Recycling

Road conditions are only part of the reason that trash collections will be delayed. Many of the trash truck drivers are working snow removal. There's no set timetable or schedule: Solid waste collections will occur as soon as secondary roadways are passable. Customers should place refuse and recycle containers curbside on scheduled collection days and leave containers curbside until collections have been made. Progress may be slow; however all customers will receive service as

quickly as possible. Please continue to monitor [Hampton.gov](http://Hampton.gov) and call 311 (727-8311) for further updates.

### **Closures**

- Hampton City Schools has announced schools will remain closed Wednesday, Feb. 18. Check [hampton.gov](http://hampton.gov) for updates on city services.
- Tuesday evening's State of Downtown Dinner has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date.
- The Peninsula Chamber of Commerce's Youth Career Expo scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 18 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center has been cancelled.

### **Forecast**

The National Weather Service in Wakefield has indicated that Hampton roads are expected to refreeze tonight and could cause black ice on the roads. Tuesday night's low temperature will be in the upper teens and still in the low 20s by morning rush hour. By about 10 a.m., the roads will start to warm up, and Wednesday's temperatures should reach 34-35 degrees. Wednesday evening, another cold front will move in. Hampton could see a short snow shower between 9 p.m. and midnight. Hampton could see up to an inch of snowfall.

Thursday morning, Hampton will be in the upper teens or low 20s, with a wind chill close to zero. Hampton will stay in the 20s the rest of the day. Thursday into Friday will produce the coldest temperatures, with predicted lows in the single digits close to zero and wind chills below zero. Highs on Friday will be in the low 20s.

### **Continuous efforts**

Tyler Richardson, superintendent of bridges and streets, said Hampton has 35 snow trucks, three loaders, two backhoes, 80 operators and two dispatchers available. Employees are continuing on 12-hour shifts. The city started the storm with more than 3,000 tons of salt and 5,000 gallons of calcium chloride on hand.

### **Assistance for homeless**

A Nights Welcome, the program that provides overnight shelter for the homeless, is at First United Methodist Church this week. Arrangements have been made so that the church, located at 110 Queen St., can remain open if needed. If the shelter remains open Tuesday, the day center for homeless run by H.E.L.P in Buckroe will be closed. In addition, city officials are prepared to open an additional shelter if it's needed.

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